

INDIANA

RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENT

ACT

IC 24-7

As Amended Through July 1, 2001



NON-DEPOSITORY DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

402 West Washington Street, Room W-066
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

ARTICLE 7

RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

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CHAPTER 1. Application

Section

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24-7-1-1 Rental purchase agreements affected; lessee's residence

Sec. 1. (a) This article applies to a rental purchase agreement if:

- (1) the rental purchase agreement is entered into in Indiana;
- (2) the lessee is a resident of Indiana at the time a lessor offering the rental purchase agreement solicits the rental purchase agreement or a modification of the rental purchase agreement by any mode of communication; or
- (3) the lessee is a resident of Indiana at the time the lessor offering a rental purchase agreement receives either a signed writing evidencing the creation or modification of a rental purchase agreement or a written offer from the lessee to enter into or modify a rental purchase agreement.

(b) For the purposes of this article, the residence of a lessee is the address given by the lessee as the lessee's residence in any writing signed by the lessee in connection with a rental purchase agreement. Until the lessee notifies the lessor of a new or different residence address, the given residence address is presumed to be unchanged. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-1-2 Inapplicable law

Sec. 2. Except as provided in this article, the provisions of:

- (1) the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act and regulations adopted under it;
- (2) IC 24-4.5;
- (3) IC 26-1-1-201(37);
- (4) IC 26-1-2 concerning the creation of a security interest in property;
- (5) IC 26-1-9; and
- (6) rules adopted under the statutes described in subdivisions (2) through (5); do not apply to a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-1-3 Waiver of statutory protections; settlement

Sec. 3. Except as provided in this article, a lessor or lessee may not waive or agree to forego rights or benefits under this article. However this article does not prohibit the settlement of a claim under this article. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-1-4 Legal and equitable principles applicable

Sec. 4. Except as provided in this article, this article does not limit the application of the principles of law and equity to a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-1-5 Article does not apply; motor vehicles

Rental purchase agreements involving motor vehicles (as defined in IC 9-13-2-105(a)) are prohibited under this article. *As added by P.L.138-1990, SEC.3. As Amended by P.L.134/63-2001, SEC.5.*

CHAPTER 2. Definitions

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24-7-2-9	"Rental purchase agreement" defined

24-7-2-1 Definitions applicable

Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this article. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-2-2 "Department"

Sec. 2. **"Department"** has the meaning set forth in IC 24-4.5-6-103. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.14-1992, SEC 62.*

24-7-2-3 "Consummation" defined

Sec. 3. **"Consummation"** means the time or date on which the lessee signs a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-2-4 "Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act" defined

Sec. 4. **"Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act"** has the meaning set forth in IC 24-4.5-1-302. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-2-5 "Lessee" defined

Sec. 5. **"Lessee"** means an individual who rents property under a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-2-6 "Lessor" defined

Sec. 6. **"Lessor"** means an individual or other person who, in the ordinary course of business

- (1) leases;
- (2) offers to lease;
- (3) arranges for the leasing of; or
- (4) accepts assignments of leases of;

property under a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.4.*

24-7-2-7 "Period" defined

Sec. 7. **"Period"** means a day, week, month, or other subdivision of a year. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-2-8 "Property" defined

Sec. 8. **"Property"** means any property that:

- (1) is not real property or intangible personal property under Indiana law; and
- (2) is made available under a rental purchase agreement.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-2-9 "Rental purchase agreement" defined

Sec. 9. **"Rental purchase agreement"** means an agreement between a lessor and a lessee that:

- (1) provides for the use of personal property by an individual primarily for personal, family or household purposes;
- (2) has an initial period of four (4) months or less;
- (3) is automatically renewable with each rental payment; and
- (4) permits the lessee to become the owner of the property.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.5.

CHAPTER 3. Disclosure; Form of Rental Purchase Agreement

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24-7-3-1 Written agreement

Sec. 1. The lessor shall reduce a rental purchase agreement to writing. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-3-2 Alternate disclosure requirements

Sec. 2. A lessor shall disclose to a lessee the information required under section 3 of this chapter. However, if the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act is amended to govern lease-purchase disclosures, the lessor may disclose the information required under the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act instead of the disclosure required under this chapter. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-3-3 Disclosures required

Sec. 3. The lessor shall disclose the following:

- (1) A brief description of the property sufficient to identify the property to the lessee and lessor.
- (2) The total number, total amount, and timing of all rental payments, including taxes paid to or through the lessor, necessary to acquire ownership of the property.
- (3) A statement that the lessee will not own the property until the lessee has:
 - (A) made the number of rental payments and the total of rental payment necessary to acquire ownership of the property; or
 - (B) exercised an early purchase option.
- (4) A statement that charges in addition to the total rental payment necessary to acquire ownership of the leased property may be imposed under the agreement and that the lessee should read the contract for an explanation of these charges.
- (5) A brief explanation of all additional charges that may be imposed under the agreement. If a security deposit is required, the explanation must include an explanation of the conditions, under which the deposit will be returned to the lessee.
- (6) A statement indicating who is responsible for property if it is lost stolen, damaged, or destroyed.

- (7) A statement indicating that the value of lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed property is its fair market value on the date that it is lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed.
- (8) A statement indicating whether the property is new or used. However, property that is new may be described as used.
- (9) A statement that the lessee has an early purchase option to purchase the property at any time during the period that the rental purchase agreement is in effect. The statement must specify the price or the formula or other method for determining the price at which the property may be purchased.
- (10) A brief explanation of the lessee's right to reinstate a rental purchase agreement and a description of the amount, or method of determining the amount of any penalty or other charge applicable under IC 24-7.5 to the reinstatement of a rental purchase agreement.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-3-4 Form of disclosures

Sec. 4. (a) The disclosures required under [section 3](#) of this chapter shall be stated:

- (1) clearly and conspicuously; and
- (2) in words and phrases that have a nontechnical meaning.

(b) Except as provided in the rule adopted by the department, the disclosure required under section 3 of this chapter may be included in the rental purchase agreement or in a separate writing that references the rental purchase agreement.

(c) Except as provided in the rules adopted by the department, the disclosures required under section 3 of the chapter may be provided in a different sequence than the sequence set forth in section 3 of this chapter.

(d) Additional information or explanation supplied by the lessor may not have the effect of circumventing, evading, or unduly complicating the information required to be disclosed. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1; P.L.172-1997, SEC.10.*

24-7-3-5 Time of disclosure

Sec. 5. The lessor shall disclose all information required in [section 3](#) of this chapter before the rental purchase agreement is consummated. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-3-6 Copy of written and signed agreement to lessee

Sec. 6. Before any rental payment is due under the rental purchase agreement, the lessor shall obtain the signature of the lessee on the writing containing the terms of the rental purchase agreement and shall furnish the lessee with a copy of the written and signed rental purchase agreement. If there is more than one (1) lessee in a rental purchase agreement, delivery of a copy of the rental purchase agreement to one (1) of the lessees, is sufficient to comply with this section. *As added by P.L.254- 1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-3-7 Size of print

Sec. 7. The terms of the rental purchase agreement shall be set forth in not less than 8 point type. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-3-8 Rental payment receipts

Sec. 8. The lessor shall furnish the lessee, without request by the lessee, a written receipt for each rental payment made:

(1) in cash; or

(2) by another method of rental payment that does not provide evidence of the rental payment. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

CHAPTER 4. Limitations

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24-7-4-1 Ownership acquisition

24-7-4-2 Contractual abridgement of rights and duties

24-7-4-3 Assignment of earnings as payment

24-7-4-4 Acceptance of authorization on behalf of lessee waiving service of process
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24-7-4-5 Required waiver of lessee's defenses, counterclaims or rights of action in
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24-7-4-6 Repossession limited

24-7-4-7 Prejudgment garnishment

24-7-4-8 Negotiable instrument as evidence of obligation - Repealed

24-7-4-9 Assignee of lessor's rights; lessee's rights against assignee; contractual abridgement of
lessee's claims or defenses

24-7-4-10 Notice and proof of assignment

24-7-4-11 Additional payments

24-7-4-12 Mandatory insurance; early termination of agreement or item return penalties; fees or
charges imposed on cosigner

24-7-4-1 Ownership acquisition

Sec. 1. At any time after the first rental payment is made, the lessee may acquire ownership of the property under the terms specified in the rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-2 Contractual abridgement of rights and duties

Sec. 2. A rental purchase agreement may not contain a provision that conflicts with the rights and duties imposed under this article. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-3 Assignment of earnings as payment

Sec. 3. (a) A lessor may not accept an assignment of earnings from the lessee for payment or as security for payment for a charge arising under a rental purchase agreement.

(b) An assignment of earnings in violation of this section is unenforceable by the assignee of the earnings and revocable by the lessee.

(c) This section does not prohibit a lessee from authorizing deduction from the lessee's earnings if the authorization is revocable and is otherwise permitted by law. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-4 Acceptance of authorization on behalf of lessee waiving service of process confessing judgment or enforcing payment

Sec. 4. A lessor may not take or accept a power of attorney or other authorization from the lessee, or other person acting on the lessee's behalf, to waive service of process, confess judgment or enforce payment of money claimed by the lessor in violation of IC 34-2-25 or IC 34-2-26. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-5 Required waiver of lessee's defenses, counterclaims or rights of action in collecting payments or charges or rights of action in collecting payments or charges

Sec. 5. A lessor may not require a lessee to waive any defense, counterclaim, or right of action against:

(1) the lessor; or

(2) a person acting on the lessor's behalf, as the lessee's agent; in collection of rental payments, or charges under the rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-6 Repossession limited

Sec. 6. A lessor may not require a lessee to authorize the lessor or a person acting on the lessor's behalf to unlawfully enter upon the lessee's premises or to commit any breach of the peace in the repossession of the property. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-7 Prejudgment garnishment

Sec. 7. A lessor may not require a lessee to authorize a prejudgment garnishment of the lessee's wages. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-8 Negotiable instrument as evidence of obligation - *Repealed by P.L.45-1995, SEC.33.***24-7-4-9 Assignee of lessor's rights; lessee's rights against assignee; contractual abridgement of lessee's claims or defenses**

Sec. 9. (a) With respect to a rental purchase agreement, an assignee of the rights of the lessor is subject to all claims and defenses of the lessee against the lessor arising from the lease of property or services.

(b) A claim or defense of a lessee specified in subsection (a) may be asserted against the assignee under this section only if the lessee has made a good faith attempt to obtain satisfaction from the lessor with respect to the claim or defense and then only to the extent of the amount owing the assignee with respect to the sale or the lease of the property or services to which the claim or defense arose at the time the assignee has written notice of the claim or defense. Written notice of the claim or defense may be given before the attempts specified in this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, written notice is any written notification other than notice on a coupon, billing statement or any other payment medium or material supplied by the assignee.

(c) An agreement may not limit or waive the claims or defenses of a lessee under this section. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.45-1995, SEC.18.*

24-7-4-10 Notice and proof of assignment

Sec. 10. (a) The lessee may pay the original lessor until the lessee receives written notification:

- (1) that assignment of the rights to rental payments under the rental purchase agreement has occurred; and
- (2) of the person to whom rental payments are to be made.

(b) A notification that does not reasonably identify the rights assigned is ineffective.

(c) If requested by the lessee, the assignee must take reasonable steps to furnish proof that the assignment has been made. Unless the assignee furnishes the proof, the lessee may pay the original lessor. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-4-11 Additional payments

Sec. 11. Except as provided in [section 1](#) of this chapter, a lessee may not be required to:

- (1) make any payment in addition to regular rental payments in order to acquire ownership of the property; or
- (2) pay rental payments totaling more than the cost to acquire ownership stated in the rental purchase agreement.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-4-12 Mandatory insurance; early termination of agreement or item return penalties; fees or charges imposed on cosigner

Sec. 12. A lessor may not require any of the following:

- (1) The mandatory purchase of insurance by the lessee from the lessor.
- (2) A penalty for early termination of a rental purchase agreement or for the return of an item at any point, except charges authorized under IC 24-7-5.
- (3) A payment by a cosigner of the rental purchase agreement for any fees or charges that may not be imposed on the lessee as part of the rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

CHAPTER 5. Additional Charges

Section

- 24-7-5-1 Nonrefundable processing fee
- 24-7-5-2 Security deposit refunds
- 24-7-5-3 Delivery charges
- 24-7-5-4 Rental payment pick-up charges
- 24-7-5-5 Late charges or delinquency fees
- 24-7-5-6 Reinstatement fee
- 24-7-5-7 Sales and use taxes
- 24-7-5-8 Official fees
- 24-7-5-9 Reserved
- 24-7-5-10 Replacement cost

24-7-5-1 Nonrefundable processing fee

Sec. 1. A lessor may contract for and receive an initial nonrefundable processing fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10). *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.6.*

24-7-5-2 Security deposit refunds

Sec. 2. A lessor may refuse to refund any part of a security deposit provided by a lessee only under the conditions authorized in the rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-5-3 Delivery charges

Sec. 3. (a) A lessor may contract for and receive a reasonable delivery charge if the lessor actually delivers the item to the lessee at a place other than the lessor's place of business.

(b) The delivery charge may be assessed in lieu of and not in addition to any initial processing charge imposed under [section 1](#) of this chapter.

24-7-5-4 Rental payment pick-up charges

Sec. 4. (a) A lessor may contract for and receive a charge for picking up rental or other payments from the lessee if the lessor is required or requested to visit the lessee to pick up a payment at a place other than the lessor's place of business.

(b) A charge assessed under this section may not exceed ten dollars (\$10).

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.7.

24-7-5-5 Late charges or delinquency fees

Sec. 5. (a) The parties may contract for late charges or delinquency fees as follows:

(1) For rental purchase agreements with monthly renewal dates, a late charge not exceeding five dollars (\$5) may be assessed on any rental payment not made within five (5) days after:

(A) the renewal date for the agreement; or

(B) the return of the property is required under the rental purchase agreement.

(2) For rental purchase agreements with weekly or biweekly renewal dates, a late charge not exceeding the amount specified in subsection (e) may be assessed on any rental payments not made within three (3) days after:

(A) the renewal date for the agreement; or

(B) the return of the property is required under the rental purchase agreement.

(b) A late charge on a rental purchase agreement may be collected only once on any accrued rental payment, no matter how long it remains unpaid.

(c) A late charge may be collected at any time after it accrues.

(d) A late charge may not be assessed against a rental payment that is timely made, even though an earlier late charge has not been paid in full.

(e) The amount that may be assessed under subsection (a)(2) is as follows:

(1) One dollar (\$1) for any payment not greater than nine dollars and fifty cents (\$9.50).

(2) Two dollars (\$2) for any payment greater than nine dollars and fifty cents (\$9.50) but not greater than nineteen dollars and fifty cents (\$19.50).

(3) Three dollars (\$3) for any payment greater than nineteen dollar and fifty cents (\$19.50).

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.8; P.L. 14-1992, SEC.63, effective 07/01/92.

24-7-5-6 Reinstatement fee

Sec. 6. A reinstatement fee imposed under [IC 24-7-6-2](#) may not exceed five dollar (\$5). *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.9.*

24-7-5-7 Sales and use taxes

Sec. 7. In addition to those charges allowable by this chapter the lessor may require the lessee to pay any state sales and use taxes levied in connection with a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-5-8 Official fees

Sec. 8. In addition to those charges allowable by this chapter, a lessor may contract for and receive from the lessee an amount equal to all official fees require to be paid under a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-5-9 Reserved**24-7-5-10 Replacement cost**

Sec. 10. If a lessee is liable to a lessor for the replacement cost of property leased under a rental purchase agreement, the lessor may not charge the lessee more than the fair market value for the property. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.10.*

24-7-5-11 Liability waiver fee

Sec. 11. (a) In addition to the other charges permitted by this chapter, a lessor and a lessee may contract for a liability waiver fee in the following amounts:

(1) In the case of a rental purchase agreement with weekly or biweekly renewal dates, the liability waiver fee may not exceed the greater of:

(A) ten percent (10%) of a periodic lease payment due; or

(B) two dollars (\$2).

(2) In the case of a rental purchase agreement with monthly renewal dates, the liability may not exceed the greater of:

(A) ten percent (10%) of a periodic lease payment due; or

(B) five dollars (\$5).

(b) The selling or offering for sale of a liability damage waiver under this section is subject to the following prohibitions and requirements:

(1) A lessor may not sell or offer to sell a liability damage waiver unless all restrictions, conditions, and exclusions are:

(A) printed in the rental purchase agreement, or in a separate agreement, in 8 point type or larger; or

(B) written in ink or typewritten in or on the face of the rental purchase agreement in a blank space provided therefor.

(2) The liability damage waiver may exclude only loss or damage to the property that is the subject of the rental purchase agreement caused by moisture, scratches, mysterious disappearance, vandalism, abandonment of the property, or any other damage intentionally caused by the lessee or that results from the lessee's willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The liability damage waiver agreement must include a statement of the total charge for the liability damage waiver. The liability damage waiver agreement must display in 8 point boldface type the following:

"NOTICE: THIS CONTRACT OFFERS, FOR AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE, A LIABILITY DAMAGE WAIVER TO COVER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY. BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO PURCHASE THE LIABILITY DAMAGE WAIVER, YOU MAY WISH TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR OWN HOMEOWNERS OR CASUALTY INSURANCE AFFORDS YOU COVERAGE FOR DAMAGE TO THE RENTAL PROPERTY, AND THE

AMOUNT OF THE DEDUCTIBLE UNDER YOUR OWN INSURANCE COVERAGE. THE PURCHASE OF THIS LIABILITY DAMAGE WAIVER IS NOT MANDATORY AND MAY BE DECLINED."

(4) The restrictions, conditions, and exclusions of the liability damage waiver must be disclosed on the agreement or on a separate agreement, sheet, or handout given to the lessee before entering into the rental purchase agreement. The separate contract, sheet, or handout must be signed or otherwise acknowledged by the lessee as being received before entering into the rental purchase agreement.

(5) The lessor shall keep and maintain records as prescribed by the director of the department. The director of the department may inspect the records and determine whether the rates charged under this section are fair and reasonable. *As added by P.L. 226-1993, SEC.17; P.L.172-1997, SEC.11.*

CHAPTER 6. Reinstatement; Garnishment; Unconscionable Agreement

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- 24-7-6-1 Reinstatement of original agreement conditions
- 24-7-6-2 Condition precedent to reinstatement; charges
- 24-7-6-3 Same or substituted leased item upon reinstatement; revised disclosures
- 24-7-6-4 Pre-judgment garnishment proceeding
- 24-7-6-5 Unconscionable agreements

24-7-6-1 Reinstatement of original agreement conditions

Sec. 1. A lessee who fails to make timely rental payments has the right to reinstate the original rental purchase agreement without losing any rights or options previously acquired under the rental purchase agreement if:

- (1) subsequent to having failed to make a timely rental payment, the lessee promptly surrenders the property to the lessor, if requested by the lessor; and
- (2) not more than sixty (60) days elapse after the lessee returns the property.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-6-2 Condition precedent to reinstatement; charges

Sec. 2. (a) As a condition precedent to reinstatement of the rental purchase agreement, a lessor may charge:

- (1) the outstanding balance of any accrued rental payments and delinquency charges;
- (2) a reinstatement fee not exceeding the amount allowed under IC 24-7-5-6; and
- (3) delivery charges not exceeding the amount allowed under IC 24-7-5-3 if redelivery of the item is necessary.

(b) A reinstatement fee may not be charged under subsection (a)(2) unless the property has been returned to the lessor and is in the lessor's possession. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.11.*

24-7-6-3 Same or substituted leased item upon reinstatement; revised disclosures

Sec. 3. If reinstatement occurs under section 1 through 2 of this chapter, the lessor shall provide the lessee with either the same item leased by the lessee before reinstatement or a substitute item, of comparable quality and condition. If any information disclosed under IC 24-7-3-2 is inaccurate after the delivery of a substitute item, the lessor shall provide the lessee with a revised set of disclosures. If there is more than one (1) lessee in a rental purchase agreement, delivery of a copy of the revised set of disclosures to one (1) of the lessees is sufficient to comply with this section. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-6-4 Pre-judgment garnishment proceeding

Sec. 4. (a) IC 24-4.5-5-105 and IC 24-4.5-5-106 apply to garnishment related to a rental purchase agreement.

(b) With respect to a debt arising from a rental purchase agreement, regardless of where made, the lessor may not attach unpaid earnings of the debtor by garnishment proceeding or other similar proceedings before the entry of a judgment in an action against the lessee arising from a rental purchase agreement. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-6-5 Unconscionable agreements

Sec. 5. (a) If the court as a matter of law finds the rental purchase agreement or any clause of a rental purchase agreement to have been unconscionable at the time it was made the court may:

- (1) refuse to enforce the rental purchase agreement;
- (2) enforce the remainder of the rental purchase agreement without the unconscionable clause; or
- (3) limit the application of any unconscionable clause to avoid an unconscionable result.

(b) If it is claimed or appears to the court that a rental purchase agreement or any clause of the rental purchase agreement may be unconscionable, the parties shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present evidence as to its setting, purpose, and effect to aid the court in making the determination.

(c) For the purpose of this section, a rental payment, charge, or practice expressly permitted by this article is not in itself unconscionable. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

CHAPTER 7. Enforcement, Adjustment in Maximum Fees

Section

- 24-7-7-1 Enforcement by administrator
- 24-7-7-2 Examination of books and records; investigations; subpoenas; court orders
- 24-7-7-3 Assurance of discontinuance of misconduct

24-7-7-1 Enforcement by administrator

Sec. 1. The department shall enforce this article. To carry out this responsibility the department may do the following:

- (1) Receive and act on complaints, take action designed to obtain voluntary compliance with this article, or commence proceedings on the department's own initiative.
- (2) Issue and enforce administrative orders under IC 4-21.5.
- (3) Counsel persons and groups on their rights and duties under this article.
- (4) Establish programs for the education of consumers with respect to rental purchase agreement practices and problems.
- (5) Makes studies appropriate to effectuate the purposes and policies of this article and make the results available to the public.
- (6) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2, including emergency rules under IC 4-22-2-37, to carry out this article.
- (7) Maintain more than one (1) office within Indiana.
- (8) Bring a civil action to restrain a person from violating this article and for other appropriate relief.
- (9) Impose a civil penalty under IC 4-21.5 of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a violation of this article or a rule adopted under this article.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.1-1990, SEC.12; P.L.172-1997 SEC. 12.

24-7-7-2 Examination of books and records; investigations; subpoenas; court orders

Sec. 2. (a) A person subject to this article shall make the books and records of the person reasonably available for inspection by the department or the department's representative.

(b) In administering this article and in order to determine compliance with this article, the department or the department's representative may examine the books and records of persons subject to the article and may make investigations of persons necessary to determine compliance. For this purpose, the department may administer oaths or affirmations, and, upon the department's own motion or upon request of any party may subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, compel testimony, and require the production of any matter that is relevant to the investigation, including the existence, description, nature, custody condition, and location of any books, documents, or other tangible things and the identity and location of persons having knowledge of relevant facts, or any other matter reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

(c) If the person's records are located outside Indiana, the person shall, at the persons option, either make them available to the department at a convenient location in Indiana, or pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for the department or the department's representative to examine them at the place where they are maintained. The department may designate representatives, including comparable officials of the state in which the records are located, to inspect them on the department's behalf.

(d) Upon failure without lawful excuse to obey a subpoena or to give testimony and upon reasonable notice to all persons affected thereby, the department may not make public the name or identity of a person whose acts or conduct the department investigates under this section or the facts disclosed in the investigation, but this subsection does not apply to disclosures in actions or enforcement proceedings under this article.

(f) A lessor shall use generally accepted accounting principles and practices in keeping books and records so that the department or the department's representative may determine if the lessor is in compliance with this article or a rule adopted under this article.

(g) A lessor shall keep the lessor's books and records that pertain to a rental purchase agreement for at least two (2) years after the rental purchase agreement has terminated. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.1-1990, SEC.13; P.L.172-1997, SEC. 13.*

24-7-7-3 Assurance of discontinuance of misconduct

Sec. 3. If it is claimed that a person has engaged in conduct subject to an order by the department or by a court under this chapter, the department may accept an assurance in writing that the person will not engage in the conduct in the future. If a person giving an assurance of discontinuance fails to comply with its terms, the assurance is evidence that before the assurance the person engaged in the conduct described in the assurance. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1;P.L.172-1997, SEC. 14.*

CHAPTER 8. Registration of Lessor

Section

[24-7-8-1](#) Lessor's notification of administrator

[24-7-8-2](#) Contents of notification

[24-7-8-3](#) Corrective notification

[24-7-8-4](#) Filing and examination fees

24-7-8-1 Lessor's notification of administrator

Sec. 1. A lessor shall file notification with the department:

- (1) within thirty (30) days after soliciting or entering into a rental purchase agreement subject to this article; and
- (2) before February 1 in each subsequent year that the lessor solicits or enters into a rental purchase agreement subject to this article.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1;P.L.172-1997, SEC. 15.

24-7-8-2 Contents of notification

Sec. 2. The notification required under [section 1](#) of this chapter must state the following:

- (1) The name of the lessor.
- (2) The name in which business is transacted if different from subdivision (1).
- (3) The address of the principal office, which may be outside Indiana.
- (4) The address of all offices or stores, if any in Indiana at which rental purchase agreements are made.
- (5) If rental purchase agreements are made in a place other than an office or retail store in Indiana, a brief description of the manner in which they are made.
- (6) The address of the designated agent upon whom service of process may be made in Indiana.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-8-3 Corrective notification

Sec. 3. If information in a notification becomes inaccurate after filing, no further notification is required until the lessor is required to file a subsequent notification under [section 1](#) of this chapter. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-8-4 Filing and examination fees

Sec. 4. (a) A lessor required to file a notification with the department under [section 1](#) of this chapter shall pay to the department the following fees:

- (1) A fee fixed by the department under IC 28-11-3-5 with the initial notification filed with the department.
 - (2) A fee fixed by the department under IC 28-11-3-5 for each place of business operated by the lessor on December 31 of the preceding year with each annual notification subsequently filed with the department.
- (b) In addition to the fee required under subsection (a)(2), if the department examines the books, and records of the lessor and requires more than three (3) days per location to conduct the examination, the lessor shall pay to the department a fee fixed by the department under IC 28-11-3-5 for each day or part of a day after the third day of the examination required for the department or the department's representative to conduct the department examination.
- (c) The department may impose a fee of five dollars (\$5) for each day a lessor is late in paying a fee under subsection (a). Notwithstanding the total number of places of business operated by a lessor, the department may not impose a late fee of more than five dollars (\$5) for each day a lessor is paying a fee described under subsection (a)(2). *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1. As amended by P.L.138-1990, SEC.14; P.L.14-1992, SEC.64; P.L.45-1995, SEC.19.*

CHAPTER 9. Violations; Civil Damages

Section

- 24-7-9-1 False or inaccurate information in agreements or disclosures; offense
- 24-7-9-2 Failure to provide required information; offense
- 24-7-9-3 Unauthorized or excessive charges; offense
- 24-7-9-4 Civil damages recoverable by lessee
- 24-7-9-5 Defenses; clerical error and correction
- 24-7-9-6 Defenses; compliance with administrator's rule
- 24-7-9-7 Limitation of actions

24-7-9-1 False or inaccurate information in agreements or disclosures; offense

Sec. 1. A lessor who knowingly gives false or inaccurate, information in a rental purchase agreement or a written disclosure required under this article commits a Class C misdemeanor. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-9-2 Failure to provide required information; offense

Sec. 2. A lessor who knowingly fails to provide information that the lessor is required to disclose to a lessee or provide to the department under this article commits a Class C misdemeanor. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1; P.L.172-1997, SEC. 16.*

24-7-9-3 Unauthorized or excessive charges; offense

Sec. 3. A lessor who knowingly makes a charge under a rental purchase agreement that:

- (1) is not authorized under this article; or
- (2) exceeds the amount authorized under this article;

commits a Class C misdemeanor. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.*

24-7-9-4 Civil damages recoverable by lessee

Sec. 4. (a) If a lessor violates this article and a lessee who is a party to the agreement prevails in the proceeding, the lessee may:

- (1) recover from the lessor committing the violation; or
- (2) set off in a counterclaim in any action by the lessor committing the violation;

the amounts described in subsection (b).

(b) The lessee in an action described in subsection (a) may recover all of the following:

- (1) Reasonable attorney's fees, as determined by the court.
- (2) Court costs.

(3) The greater of:

- (A) the actual damages, incurred by the lessee as a result of the violation:
- (B) three hundred dollars (\$300); or
- (C) twenty-five percent (25%) of the total rental payment necessary to acquire ownership of the property leased under the agreement.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-9-5 Defenses; clerical error and correction

Sec. 5. It is a defense in a criminal proceeding under section 1 through 3 of this chapter or a civil proceeding under section 4 of this chapter that the lessor or an assignee of a lessor:

- (1) failed to comply with this article as a result of a bona fide clerical error; and
- (2) corrected the error after the date of execution of the rental purchase agreement.

As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1.

24-7-9-6 Defenses; compliance with administrator's rule

Sec. 6 . It is a defense in a criminal proceeding under section 1 through 3 of this chapter or a civil proceeding under section 4 of this chapter that the lessor complied with a rule adopted by the department. *As added by P.L.254-1987, SEC.1; P.L.172-1997, SEC. 17.*

24-7-9-7 Limitation of actions

Sec. 7. Notwithstanding any other law, an action to recover the amounts described in section 4 of this chapter must be commenced within one (1) year after the action accrues. *As added by P.L.254- 1987, SEC.1.*

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